

## **Regional Conference Report**

**Region 6 – Northeast N.B.**

**Inkerman Community Centre**

**Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat  
September 20, 2008**

## **Regional Conference Report**

Region 6 – Northeast N.B.  
Inkerman Community Centre  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

---

We hosted our second Regional Conference in Inkerman, NB on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was a huge success. I would like to thank the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. and Léo-Paul Pinet for co-hosting this second conference in the series of seven. These regional conferences are the follow-up on Claudette Bradshaw's consultations and the *Delivering on the Blueprint* report. For the Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat (CNPOS), it is an opportunity to get to know the non-profit organizations, discuss issues, and exchange ideas. The vision of the CNPOS is that of a dynamic community non-profit sector that acts as an essential partner in the socioeconomic development of New Brunswick.

Nicole Smith  
Executive Director

---

### **Document Outline:**

#### Questions

- Funding and Administrative Burden
- Respect and Recognition
- Fostering a Culture of Volunteering
- Revitalizing the Partnership

Panel: The Inkerman Perspective

Top Priorities

List of Attendees

---

## Questions

(These questions were raised during discussion at the conference, on the evaluation sheets, and on parking lots sheets during round table discussion)

### Funding and Administrative Burden

Q. *What are the criteria for participating in the multi-year funding?*

A. Departments will be using the record of performance that already exists for non-profit organizations. If an organization has received core funding from the Government over the last few years, has demonstrated financial accountability, and has good governance the non-profit organization may be eligible for the multi-year funding agreement. This fiscal year's funding will be used as the basis for negotiating these arrangements. These will need to be done on a department by department basis. The document references a five year funding agreement, however there will be some flexibility as three years may make more sense for some organizations and Departments.

Q. *What is the progress of the commitment for multi-year funding?*

A. A working group (topic table) has been established for this issue. The Chair of this committee, Fleurette Landry, has solicited input from interested non-profit organizations and is gathering this information together. At the same time, the Secretariat has started conversations with government departments around the details of multi-year funding. All affected departments have been working on identifying eligible non-profit organizations for the multi-year funding.

Q. *The report mentions finding a solution to make insurance available to non-profit organizations, what progress has been made on this initiative?*

A. The Secretariat is currently exploring options for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance for non-profit organizations. We hope to have an update for the sector shortly.

Q. *The report also mentions that the Secretariat will help with maintenance of buildings or facilities. What work has been made on this recommendation?*

A. The Government of New Brunswick, through the Secretariat and other partner Departments, is willing to work with the Non-Profit Sector to create a program that would provide interest-free loans for capital costs related to the acquisition, repair or renovation of property to be used primarily for service delivery activities.

Q. *What work is currently being done to investigate the NB Power usage rates for independently owned Community Non-Profit Organizations?*

A. The Secretariat will review Nova Scotia's legislation to see if there is a possibility to create a similar policy in New Brunswick.

Q: *Given the mixture of rural and urban regions do you plan to offer funding that corresponds to the special needs of rural regions?*

A: It is important for NPOs to indicate their special needs when applying for funding, so that the government can take those needs into account. As part of the government's vision for a self-sufficient New Brunswick, the Province of New Brunswick created the \$100-million Northern New Brunswick Infrastructure Initiative (NNBII) to ensure adequate infrastructure is made available for economic development in the Restigouche, Chaleur, Acadian Peninsula and Miramichi regions.

Q. *Why are only three advocacy groups receiving funding?*

A. Although the Government will not be expanding funding for advocacy groups that deal with provincial issues, it remains committed to maintaining funding for the three advocacy agencies; the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth and the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons. Further research and discussion will be undertaken by the Secretariat and advocacy groups on this issue.

Q. *Transportation costs are increasing for insurance, maintenance, and gas. Is it possible for the government garages to offer free maintenance and repairs or the mechanic's time for organizations that have minivans, minibuses, etc.?*

A. Regulations under the Public Purchasing Act regarding the supply of services outline that the provincial government is limited to providing supplies/services to those bodies that are listed in Schedule A and B of Regulation 94-936. Therefore the government is unable to provide to non-government entities.  
(<http://www.gnb.ca/0062/regs/94-157.htm>)

Q. *How can the Secretariat improve the working conditions of teachers of adult classes (ie. literacy classes), for example, availability and use of government buildings?*

A. The Secretariat will work with the Department of Supply and Services to investigate opportunities that may exist to grant Non-Profit Organizations access to government offices, meeting spaces or storage. Also, the Secretariat has met with the Department of Education to discuss the recommendations that referred to the use of schools. Education is reviewing the policies in place and discussing possibilities for improvement in the current policy.

Q. *Will the government consider cost of living increases in funding non-profit organizations?*



- A. Although automatic increases will not be possible currently, this item is to be reviewed annually as part of the Province's Budget Process.
- Q. *Is government considering agreements with various companies to provide non-profit organizations with access to certain government discounts, such as for hotels and car rentals?*
- A. Although many businesses, such as hotels and car rental companies, offer special rates for government, it should be noted that these rates are set internally and are offered to governments generally as part of their marketing activities rather than set specifically in negotiation with the Government of New Brunswick. Since many Non-Profit Organizations provide services on behalf of government, the Secretariat will investigate the opportunity for these private sector companies to extend these rate programs to the Non-Profit Sector in recognition of their status.
- Q. *What finances have been budgeted to implement Delivering on the Blueprint?*
- A. In the current budget, there has been \$400,000 allocated for the Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat. This money will be used to fund the operations of the Secretariat as follows: Wages for staff; Regional conferences; and office overhead and expenses.

### **Respect and Recognition**

- Q. *Where are the Secretariat's top priorities?*
- A. The only recommendations within Delivering on the Blueprint that have a fixed deadline are retention of surplus as well as multi-year finding. There is currently a working group looking at these topics, with the goal of first steps of implementation effective in 2009-2010. We will update you on any progress made in the newsletters, our annual report, and our strategic plan, available on our website, which outlines the priorities.
- Q: *Does the N.B. government regard the establishment and mandate of the Secretariat as a priority?*
- A: Premier Graham appointed Mrs. Bradshaw to a taskforce mandated to tour the communities of New Brunswick. After the release of the *Blueprint for Action* the Premier appointed a Minister responsible for the Secretariat. In March 2008 the government released it's report *Delivering on the Blueprint*. The staff of the Secretariat is very committed to the work and we are working hard to make changes for the sector. Where some priorities are the responsibilities of other departments the Secretariat is working in collaboration with them to see the changes take place.

- Q: *During Mrs. Bradshaw's consultation tours, it was recommended that the Acadian Peninsula be recognized as one entity. However, this conference included the Acadian Peninsula and the Chaleur region. Of course the two regions are similar, but they have different needs. Is the Secretariat going to recognize the Acadian Peninsula as a separate region?*
- A: We are aware of the Acadian Peninsula's need for identification, and we know that the provinces unique regions are not all defined by the regions currently used by the Secretariat. However, this is something we are prepared to work on, and the Acadian Peninsula region is a good example.

### **Fostering a Culture of Volunteering**

- Q. *What opportunities currently exist for public service announcements concerning the promotion of the voluntary sector?*
- A. The need to create more awareness of volunteerism was strongly recommended in the *Blueprint*. The Secretariat is meeting with Communications NB to investigate the possibility of a campaign. Public Service announcements are also available, free of charge, through many media sources. For example, "the CBC recognizes the importance for the well-being of the community of many social, charitable and artistic activities. Therefore, it makes available to qualifying private and public organizations a limited amount of free time to assist them in promoting their public service aims and objectives". ([http://www.cbc.radio-canada.ca/docs/policies/public\\_service/index.shtml](http://www.cbc.radio-canada.ca/docs/policies/public_service/index.shtml))
- Q. *The report suggests that tax credits could be offered to people who do volunteer work, as an incentive to volunteer. What work has been done on this recommendation?*
- A. In June the government announced that the Select Committee for Tax Review would be holding public hearings across the province. The Deputy Minister, Chris Baker, sat down with chair of the committee, Roly McIntyre to discuss the committee and their role in reviewing recommendations made within the government's response document *Delivering on the Blueprint*. The many organizations that want to comment on the policy itself were welcome to come to the regional meetings and make a presentation before the committee. The opportunity to submit a written brief was also available until August 1st, 2008. The Secretariat also submitted a letter to the Select Committee outlining the taxations issues raised in the *Blueprint for Action*. We are currently awaiting a report from the Committee for their recommendations.
- Q. *Some people are reluctant to volunteer because of the lack of protection. What work is being done by the government on this?*

A. The Association francophone des municipalités du NB is working with an insurance company to be able to provide an insurance policy and we are in contact with them to find out how we can support them in their work. We are waiting for their document, which should be ready in November. A Volunteer Protection Act is also something that is being reviewed by the Secretariat. We are researching similar legislation enacted in other provinces. There are issues of liability to be considered in the creation of an Act.

Q. *There is a need to increase awareness and the value of volunteering in the province, especially with an emphasis on youth. How can the Secretariat help?*

A. The need to create more awareness of volunteerism was strongly recommended. The Secretariat is meeting with Communications NB to investigate the possibility of a campaign. The Population Growth Secretariat has developed a Youth Engagement Fund to help support retaining Youth within our Province by engaging them to become active participants in their community. More information on this program is available on their website.

Q: *You talk about developing programs for seniors. What kind of programs? Will the groups that work with seniors be consulted?*

A: The Secretariat created a working group (topic table) on creating employment opportunities for seniors during the shoulder season (beginning and end of the tourist season in NB). The working group discussions are currently underway and a recommendation will be made to government based on their findings.

Q. *Is there going to be a database of Non-Profit Organizations?*

A. This is not outlined in the recommendations; however the Secretariat is developing a database of non-profit organizations currently only accessible to the Secretariat. Many suggested that the Secretariat develop a directory of Non-Profit Organizations that would be accessible to the public. We are reviewing the option of making this information available to the public, and we are discussing the feasibility of creating and keeping something like this up to date. This is an initiative that may already exist in New Brunswick. We will continue to explore this as a possibility.

### **Revitalizing the Partnership**

Q. *Will the Secretariat be holding consultations with the regions before negotiating bilateral agreements with the Federal government or other provinces?*

A. The Secretariat is committed to working with the non-profit sector on any major policy initiatives. Currently there are no consultations or discussions taking place with other provinces or the federal government.

---

## **Panel: The Inkerman Perspective**

Jean-Charles Chiasson, Executive Director of the Fondation communautaire de la Péninsule Acadienne

Philanthropy is defined as the act of improving the lives of one's fellow human beings through gifts of money, volunteer work, etc., without requiring anything in return.

Community foundations are a very recent phenomenon in French Canada. This is an extraordinary network with unlimited resources. In Canada, they originated in Winnipeg, and there are now six community foundations in New Brunswick: Southeast, Acadian Peninsula, Fredericton, Fundy, Greater Saint John, and Sussex.

Community foundations are organizations that help philanthropists meet the needs of people who want to support their communities. The foundations' roles are encouraging philanthropy, building capital to ensure sustainable funding, and developing leadership.

The Quebec government helps to set up community foundations and offers them support. However, that is not the case in New Brunswick. Canada's community foundations are very important development tools for governments, because they act as levers. For that reason, the New Brunswick government should look at what community foundations can do in terms of community development. I would recommend that the government set up a trust fund for the community foundations, and that the fund could be managed like Canadian Heritage. New Brunswick's community foundations are willing to enter into a partnership with the government.

Gilles Vienneau, Executive Director of the SSMEFNB

The Société Santé et Mieux-être en français au Nouveau-Brunswick (SSMEFNB) is part of the national movement to improve health care in French. It is also the agency that coordinates and unites the three action networks: community, service organization, and training and research. The volunteers who make up these networks are all professionals; that is, they volunteer from their workplace and as part of their work. The Société is based on a partnership principle and is made up of people working in the following five sectors: community, government (political decision makers), health care institution managers, educational institutions, and health and wellness professionals. Also, it operates on the principle of equality/fairness.

Léo-Paul Pinet, Executive Director of the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. (CBPA)

The *Blueprint for Action* addresses a number of needs in New Brunswick. However, concerning the recommendations, we must be careful, because the communities are



stretched to the limit. That is something we must think about. It is important to see the needs in the field and determine how we can meet them.

The Secretariat has shown courage in meeting with the communities, but now its challenge is to follow those communities, which are capable of taking charge, because the associations are very involved in their communities. We must strengthen the partnership between the CNPOs and the system and talk to each other directly if we want answers. There has to be a relationship of trust. We must continue discussions between the member associations and the government, through annual meetings in the regions and biannual ones at the provincial level. The goal is to understand one another, so we need to come back and talk to each other and tell each other the truth.

---

## **Top Priorities**

(Group discussion took place during the conference to provide an opportunity for the participants to share their priorities. The following were identified.)

- Indexation of funding to the cost of living
  - Knowing needs of the community groups
  - Literacy
  - School buses
  - Tax credit for volunteers
  - High Insurance costs
  - Property tax reductions for sector
  - Gasoline expense allowance
  - Funding for core services be sufficient and fundraising used for tangibles
  - Respect and recognition of the sector
  - Culture of volunteering – funding to cover administrative burden
  - Indexation of funding to the cost of living
  - Create a distinct region for the Acadian Peninsula as a whole
  - Build on the fact that the Province of New Brunswick recognizes linguistic equality to set up programs for the linguistic minority
  - Hold consultations with the communities before negotiating bilateral agreements with Canada and/or Quebec
  - Multi-year funding
- 

## **List of Attendees**

Accueil de jour/Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. – Line McGraw  
Approvisionnement et des Services – Becky Harris  
Association Canadienne pour la Santé Mentale - Lucie Robichaud  
Banque Alimentaire Coup D'Pouce Ltée - Ronald Richard  
Banque Alimentaire Coup D'Pouce tée - Paul Émile Beaudet

Bathurst Heritage Trust Commission Inc. - Jessica Ryan  
 Centre d'activité l'échange - Jasmine Corbin  
 Centre d'activité l'échange - Marie Blanche  
 Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. - Paula Robichaud  
 Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. - Léo-Paul Pinet  
 Centre de Ressource Familiales de la Péninsule Acadienne - Marie-Josée Roussel  
 Centre de Ressource Familiales de la Péninsule Acadienne - Joanne Jean  
 Centre de Ressource Familiales de la Péninsule Acadienne - France Whelton  
 Centre de Ressources Familiales Alnwick Inc (FoodBank) - Gisèle Breau  
 Centre de Ressources Vie Autonome - Région Péninsule Acadienne - Émilie Haché  
 Club d'âge d'or de Lamèque Inc. - Noëlla Chiasson  
 Club d'âge d'or de Lamèque Inc. - Raymond Savoie  
 Club d'âge d'or de Shippagan - Raoul Mazerolle  
 Club d'âge d'or de Shippagan - Laurena Ferguson  
 Club d'âge d'or de St. Léolin - Rose Duguay  
 Club d'âge d'or de St. Léolin - Antoine Duguay  
 Comité de gestion environnementale de la rivière Pokemouche - Élie Roussel  
 Comité de gestion environnementale de la rivière Pokemouche - Raoul Austin  
 Congrès mondial acadien 2009 - Jean-Guy Rioux  
 Conseil Municipal Ste Marie St Raphael (sport et loisirs) - Marie Josée Chiasson  
 Conseil Récréatif d'Inkerman - Léonard Haché  
 Croix-Rouge Canadienne - Sylvie Arseneau  
 Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs - Yvon Leblanc  
 Department of Local Government - André Sonier  
 Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour - Nicole Savoie  
 Department of Social Development - Emilie Bourgeois  
 Department of Social Development - Claude G. Savoie  
 Department of Tourism and Parks - Christine Bourgoin  
 Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport - Réal Savoie  
 Fédération d'alphabétisation de N.-B. (FANB) - Rita Witzell  
 Foyer Le Gouvernail inc. - Gisèle Breau  
 Handball Olympique N.B. - Adair Losier  
 Initiatives/Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. - Gaëtan Thériault  
 La Fondation Communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne - Yvon Arseneau  
 La Fondation Communautaire de la Péninsule acadienne - Jean-Charles Chiasson  
 Le Mouvement Acadien des Communautés en Santé du Nouveau-Brunswick inc. -  
 Barbara Losier  
 Le Pavillon St-Jérôme Inc. - Marie-Reine Hébert  
 Le Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité du Nouveau-Brunswick -  
 Yvon Duguay  
 Member of Parliament for Acadie-Bathurst - Yvon Godin  
 Musée Historique de Tracadie-Sheila - Lévonie Savoie  
 Musée de Saint-Isidore - Charles-Eugène Duclos  
 NB Non-Profit Housing Association Baie Chaleur Region - Gustave Mazerolle  
 Partenariat pour la gestion intégrée du bassin versant de la baie de Caraquet Inc. -  
 Annick Poirier

Réseau de Service Péninsulaire - Yvon Lanteigne  
Saint Isodore - Cécile Renaud  
Service Canada - Roger Robichaud  
Service Relèves/Auxiliaires/Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. - Marie  
Godin  
Services à la Famille de la Péninsule/Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne  
Inc. - Martine Haché  
Société Santé et Mieux-être en français du N.-B. - Gilles Vienneau  
Stimulation à l'enfance inc. - Fleurette Landry  
Table de Concertation pour contrer la violence conjugale et familiale de la PA inc. -  
Patricia Owens  
Théâtre populaire d'Acadie - Anita Landry  
Villa St. Joseph - Paul Arseneau  
Village de Maisonnnette - Lucio Cordisco  
Ville de Lamèque - Jules Haché  
Ville de Shippagan - Bernice Chiasson  
Voice of Real Poverty Inc. - Lois Dunfield  
Voice of Real Poverty Inc. - Bethany Thorne-Dykstra